7/Ext.② w/B
Hawkins
9/13/02

[10744/4200]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s)	:	Johannes-Joerg RUEGER et al.
Serial No.	:	09/824,193
Filed	:	April 2, 2001
For	:	COMPENSATION OF BATCH VARIATION IN THE TRAVEL DUE TO VARIATIONS IN THE LAYER THICKNESS OR NUMBER OF LAYERS IN MULTI-LAYER PIEZOELECTRIC ELEMENTS
Examiner	:	Mark O. Budd
Art Unit	:	2834

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

S I R:

In response to the Office Action of March 27, 2002, kindly amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 12, without prejudice, as follows:

B¹

12. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 11, characterized in that a control unit (D) determines that correction factor by dividing the piezoelectric element's (10, 20, 30, 40, 50 or 60) normal travel distance to the piezoelectric element's (10, 20, 30, 40, 50 or 60) respective actual travel distance.

Please add the following new claims:

B²

--18. (New) An apparatus for charging a piezoelectric element, comprising:

a control unit configured to control an activation voltage and an activation charge value to drive the piezoelectric element, the control unit configured to adjust the activation voltage and activation charge value to compensate for a deviation caused by a variation of at least one of a layer thickness of the piezoelectric element and a number of layers of the piezoelectric element.

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